

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DOMESTIC FISHERIES REPORT

1986 Commercial Salmon Season Summary

The 1986 Alaska commercial salmon harvest is estimated to be the fourth largest in history with a catch of 127.8 million fish and weighing a total of 589.6 million pounds.

This is the seventh consecutive year that Alaska commercial salmon harvests have exceeded the 100 million mark.

The ex-vessel value for this season is estimated to be worth \$413.9 million dollars and may be higher when more precise price information becomes available.

The 1986 salmon harvest was less than the pre-season catch projections of 138 million fish. This was largely due to the 1986 pink salmon catches (76.7 million) being lower than the 1986 catch projection (95.6 million). However, sockeye salmon catches (32.2 million) were higher than anticipated (24.5 million).

Southeast Troll Fishery

Since the October 1 opening of the Southeast Winter troll fishery, approximately 11,000 chinook salmon have been landed. The fishery appears to have been similar to last year's level which resulted in a winter season harvest of 23,000 chinook salmon. The average price paid to fishermen is currently about \$2.50 per pound.

Tanner Crab 1986/87 Season

<u>Area</u>	<u>Opening Date</u>	<u>Harvest in Millions of Pounds preseason estimate</u>
Southeast	Jan. 15	N.A.
Yakutat	Jan. 15	N.A.
PWS	Jan. 5	.2 - .5
Cook Inlet	Jan. 15	2.4
Kodiak	Jan. 15	5.2
South Peninsula	Jan. 15	1.8
Chignik	Jan. 15	.2
E. Aleutians	Jan. 15	.2
W. Aleutians	Nov. 1	.2

Bering Sea

<u>c. bairdi</u>	Closed*
<u>C. opilio</u> (based on 4" and larger crab)	56.4

* Current industry plans call for purchases of 4" and larger C. opilio. The minimum size is 3.1". If industry purchases 3.75" and larger crab the projected harvest would be 70.4 million pounds.